

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended): A linear steering truck apparatus, for mounting upon a railroad car body, the linear steering truck apparatus ~~being of the kind~~ having at least two transversely extending axles, and each axle being pivotably mountable to the railroad car body, the linear steering truck apparatus having a longitudinally extending axis in the direction of travel of the truck when the truck is traveling in a straight line, the linear steering truck apparatus further having a transverse axis extending generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the transverse axis being positioned at a midpoint along the longitudinal axis, the linear steering truck apparatus comprising:

a. a bolster member having two ends, the bolster being located along the transverse axis extending generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, generally located between and parallel to the transversely extending axles;

b. a means for attaching the linear steering truck to the car body;

c. a plurality of pedestals, a pedestal engaged to an axle bearing, the axle bearing being rotationally engaged to one end of a transversely extending axle, and at least one pedestal being movably attached to at least one other pedestal situated in the same plane along the longitudinal axis;

d. a plurality of side bearings attaching the linear steering truck to the car body, the side bearings substantially supporting the vertical load of the car body; and

d e. a means for performing car body steering, wherein the geometry of pivot points from one axle to the bolster form a trapezoid and the geometry of pivot points from another axle to the bolster form a parallelogram, the pedestals being pivotably connected so that a lateral force at one axle is reacted by the other axle, wherein the car body mass acts as a pendulum mass restoring force, and the apparatus being steered to the center of the track with either end of the truck leading after the trapezoid side yaws.

2. (cancelled). The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the means for attaching the linear steering truck to the car body includes a plurality of side bearings.

3. (currently amended): The apparatus of claim ~~2~~ 1 wherein the side bearings are situated proximate to one end of the bolster, the side bearing having at least one roller situated between the bolster and a car body plate, wherein the car body is placed on the side bearing.

4. (original): The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the roller is conical in shape.

5. (cancelled): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the bolster and pedestal are constructed of high strength ferrous casting.

6. (cancelled): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the bolster and pedestal of high strength ferrous casting are constructed using the lost foam process.

7. (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein a bearing adapter movably attaches a pedestal to an axle bearing.

8. (currently amended): A linear steering truck apparatus, for mounting upon a railroad car body, the linear steering truck apparatus having at least two transversely extending axles, and each axle being pivotably mountable to the railroad car body, the linear steering truck apparatus having a longitudinally extending axis in the direction of

travel of the truck when the truck is traveling in a straight line, the linear steering truck apparatus further having a transverse axis extending generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the transverse axis being positioned at a midpoint along the longitudinal axis, the linear steering truck apparatus comprising:

a. a bolster member having two ends, the bolster being located along the transverse axis extending generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, generally located between and parallel to the transversely extending axles;

b. a means for attaching the linear steering truck to the car body;

c. a plurality of pedestals and a corresponding plurality of bearing adapters.

The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the each bearing adapter has having an outer race, a resilient member, a ball bearing cage assembly, and an inner race, said outer race having a spherical and first interlocking interface, the first interlocking interface movably attaching to a second interlocking interface of one end of a pedestal, said ball bearing cage assembly having a top spacer, a bottom spacer, a cage, a plurality of ball bearings, and an assembly fastener, the assembly fastener connecting the top and bottom spacers thereby sealing the cage and the plurality of bearings within the top and bottom spacers, said ball bearing cage assembly being located between the outer race and inner race, said resilient member attaching the outer race to the inner race, said inner race having an interface with the axle bearing, the interface allowing the pedestal to pivotably attach to the axle bearing while allowing for yaw and roll freedom thereby providing a normal force on the axle bearing for lateral and longitudinal loads and eliminates moment on the axle bearing, each bearing adapter movably attaching a corresponding pedestal to an axle bearing, the axle bearing being rotationally engaged to one end of a transversely extending axle, and at

least one pedestal being movably attached to at least one other pedestal situated in the same plane along the longitudinal axis; and

d. a means for performing car body steering, wherein the geometry of pivot points from one axle to the bolster form a trapezoid and the geometry of pivot points from another axle to the bolster form a parallelogram, the pedestals being pivotably connected so that a lateral force at one axle is reacted by the other axle, wherein the car body mass acts as a pendulum mass restoring force, and the apparatus being steered to the center of the track with either end of the truck leading after the trapezoid side yaws.

9. (original): The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the outer race and inner race are constructed of high strength ferrous.

10. (original): The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the outer race and inner race are constructed of high strength ferrous casting using the lost foam process.

11. (original): The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the top spacer and bottom spacer are constructed of ultra-high molecular weight, high temperature polyethylene.

12. (original): The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the plurality of ball bearings comprise a plurality of 1 ½ in. diameter ball bearings.

13. (original): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein an equalizing side frame suspension moveably attaches at least one pedestal to at least one other pedestal situated in the same plane along the longitudinal axis.

14. (currently amended): A linear steering truck apparatus, for mounting upon a railroad car body, the linear steering truck apparatus having at least two transversely extending axles, and each axle being pivotably mountable to the railroad car body, the

linear steering truck apparatus having a longitudinally extending axis in the direction of travel of the truck when the truck is traveling in a straight line, the linear steering truck apparatus further having a transverse axis extending generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the transverse axis being positioned at a midpoint along the longitudinal axis, the linear steering truck apparatus comprising:

a. a bolster member having two ends, the bolster being located along the transverse axis extending generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, generally located between and parallel to the transversely extending axes;

b. a means for attaching the linear steering truck to the car body;

c. a plurality of pedestals and a plurality of equalizing side frame suspensions, a pedestal engaged to an axle bearing, the axle bearing being rotationally engaged to one end of a transversely extending axle, at least one equalizing side frame suspension movably attaching at least one pedestal to at least one other pedestal situated in the same plane along the longitudinal axis; The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the each equalizing side frame suspension ~~has~~ having a housing, the housing having a rear suspension retainer, a resilient member, a viscous damper, a spring and damper retainer, the equalizing side frame suspension further having a non-linear force equalizer and a rolling universal joint, wherein a rear suspension retainer fixedly attaches within the housing, a first end of a resilient member being positioned adjacent the rear suspension retainer and a second end of the resilient member being positioned adjacent a spring and damper retainer, the resilient member having a passage, the viscous damper being located within the passage, a first end of the viscous damper movably attaching to the rear suspension retainer and a second end of the viscous damper movably attaching to a spring

and damper retainer, a first end of the non-linear force equalizer being movably attached to the spring and damper retainer and a second end of the non-linear force equalizer being movably attached to a first end of the rolling universal joint, the second end of the rolling universal joint being movably attached to a pedestal, wherein the equalizing side frame suspension provides for equalization of load at each wheel connected to a pedestal and further provides for absorbance of vertical bounce energy experienced by the wheels and pedestals; and

d. a means for performing car body steering, wherein the geometry of pivot points from one axle to the bolster form a trapezoid and the geometry of pivot points from another axle to the bolster form a parallelogram, the pedestals being pivotably connected so that a lateral force at one axle is reacted by the other axle, wherein the car body mass acts as a pendulum mass restoring force, and the apparatus being steered to the center of the track with either end of the truck leading after the trapezoid side yaws.

15. (original): The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the rolling universal joint being movably connected to a pedestal, the rolling universal joint having a top section, a bottom section, an inner section, and a plurality of assembly resilient members, the inner section being movably attached between the top section and bottom section, the top section being connected to the bottom section by assembly resilient members, whereby the inside section allows lateral movement of the rolling universal joint and the top section and bottom section provide for longitudinal movement of the rolling universal joint, wherein the weight of the equalizing side frame suspension aligns the rolling universal joint to the pedestal, thereby preventing bending force and uneven wear on the joint.

16. (original): The device of claim 14 wherein the housing, rear suspension retainer, and spring and damper retainer are constructed of high strength ferrous casting.

17. (original): The apparatus of claim 16 wherein the housing, rear suspension retainer, and spring and damper retainer of high strength ferrous casting are constructed using the lost foam process.

18. (canceled): The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the means for performing car body steering comprises a steering component.

19. (currently amended): A linear steering truck apparatus, for mounting upon a railroad car body, the linear steering truck apparatus having at least two transversely extending axles, and each axle being pivotably mountable to the railroad car body, the linear steering truck apparatus having a longitudinally extending axis in the direction of travel of the truck when the truck is traveling in a straight line, the linear steering truck apparatus further having a transverse axis extending generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the transverse axis being positioned at a midpoint along the longitudinal axis, the linear steering truck apparatus comprising:

a. a bolster member having two ends, the bolster being located along the transverse axis extending generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, generally located between and parallel to the transversely extending axles;

b. a means for attaching the linear steering truck to the car body;

c. a plurality of pedestals, a pedestal engaged to an axle bearing, the axle bearing being rotationally engaged to one end of a transversely extending axle, and at least one pedestal being movably attached to at least one other pedestal situated in the same plane along the longitudinal axis; and

d. ~~The apparatus of claim 18 wherein the steering component has a pair of~~
rack and pinion steering components, each steering component comprising a gear tray, a
pinion, an idler, and a plurality of racks, the gear tray having a recess, the pinion
rotationally engaging the gear tray recess and having a pinion recess, the idler engaging
the pinion recess, one of said racks engaging the gear tray, one of said racks engaging the
pinion, and one of said racks engaging the idler, a first pedestal rotationally attaching to
the rack on the pinion, a second pedestal rotationally attaching to the rack on the gear tray
and to the rack on the idler, ~~the each~~ pinion being rotationally attached to a car body plate,
whereby as a rail turns out from under the car body, yawing of a wheel-set due to cone
shape of wheels, one wheel radius becomes smaller and one larger, thereby allowing the
steering system to move in the direction of the turn to accurately steer each axle, rotation
of one pinion pulls the pedestal and wheel in on one side and pushes the pedestal and
wheel out on the other, the bolster moves in the opposite direction from the pinion by the
pinion translating across the bolster, in response the pedestals and wheels attached to the
bolster at the gear set tray are pulled in on one side, and the pedestals and wheels attached
to the bolster at the gear set tray on the other side are pushed out, thereby allowing the
idlers to roll freely supporting the other side of the pedestals, wherein the geometry of
pivot points from one axle to the bolster form a trapezoid and the geometry of pivot
points from another axle to the bolster form a parallelogram, the pedestals being
pivotably connected so that a lateral force at one axle is reacted by the other axle, wherein
the car body mass acts as a pendulum mass restoring force, and the apparatus being
steered to the center of the track with either end of the truck leading after the trapezoid
side yaws.

20. (original): The device of claim 19 wherein the gear tray, pinion, idler and racks are constructed of high strength ferrous casting.

21. (original): The apparatus of claim 20 wherein the gear tray, pinion, idler and racks constructed of high strength ferrous casting are constructed using the lost foam process.

22. (currently amended original): The apparatus of claim 18 wherein ~~the~~ each steering components comprises a reactive lateral suspension having a selector housing, said selector housing being fixedly secured inside the bolster, the selector housing having a pair of selectors each containing opposing gear faces thereby allowing pivoting of the selectors within the selector housing, the reactive lateral suspension further having a plurality of struts, each strut being movably attached to a selector, a strut of the reactive lateral suspension further being movably attached to a wheel-set bearing of the pedestal, wherein the wheel-set bearing being located above the center of the car body mass such that the reactive lateral suspension absorbs hard stop energy by steering the car back on the center of the track.

23. (original): The device of claim 22 wherein the housing, selectors, and struts are constructed of high strength ferrous casting.

24. (original): The apparatus of claim 23 wherein the housing, selectors, and struts constructed of high strength ferrous casting are constructed using the lost foam process.

25. (canceled): The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a means for maintaining full brake shoe contact on a wheel when brakes are applied.

26. (currently amended): A linear steering truck apparatus, for mounting upon a railroad car body, the linear steering truck apparatus having at least two transversely extending axles, and each axle being pivotably mountable to the railroad car body, the linear steering truck apparatus having a longitudinally extending axis in the direction of travel of the truck when the truck is traveling in a straight line, the linear steering truck apparatus further having a transverse axis extending generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the transverse axis being positioned at a midpoint along the longitudinal axis, the linear steering truck apparatus comprising:

a. a bolster member having two ends, the bolster being located along the transverse axis extending generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, generally located between and parallel to the transversely extending axles;

b. a means for attaching the linear steering truck to the car body;

c. a plurality of pedestals, a pedestal engaged to an axle bearing, the axle bearing being rotationally engaged to one end of a transversely extending axle, and at least one pedestal being movably attached to at least one other pedestal situated in the same plane along the longitudinal axis; and

d. a means for performing car body steering, wherein the geometry of pivot points from one axle to the bolster form a trapezoid and the geometry of pivot points from another axle to the bolster form a parallelogram, the pedestals being pivotably connected so that a lateral force at one axle is reacted by the other axle, wherein the car body mass acts as a pendulum mass restoring force, and the apparatus being steered to the center of the track with either end of the truck leading after the trapezoid side yaws; and

e. ~~The apparatus of claim 25 wherein the~~ means for maintaining full brake shoe contact on a wheel when brakes are applied comprises a strut affixed to the steering component, the strut having joints and a brake guide bracket, the brake guide bracket being capable of receiving a brake beam and a brake shoe, whereby pivoting of the strut about the joints causes the brake shoe to maintain full contact on a wheel upon actuation of the brakes.

27. (withdrawn/non-elected): A bearing adapter apparatus for connecting a pedestal to a wheel-set, the apparatus comprising:

- a. an outer race, at least one resilient member, a ball bearing cage assembly, and an inner race;
- b. said outer race having a spherical and first interlocking interface for providing vertical centering alignment and for movably attaching to a second interlocking interface of one end of a pedestal;
- c. said ball bearing cage assembly having a top spacer, a bottom spacer, a cage, a plurality of ball bearings, and at least one assembly fastener, the at least one assembly fastener connecting the top and bottom spacers thereby sealing the cage and the plurality of bearings within the top and bottom spacers and from the outside environment;
- d. said ball bearing cage assembly being located between the outer race and inner race, said at least one resilient member attaching the outer race to the inner race, thereby allowing yaw and roll freedom while holding the bearing adapter together; and
- e. said inner race providing a conical interface with the axle bearing, thereby allowing the pedestal to pivotably attach to the axle bearing while allowing for yaw and

roll freedom which provides a normal force on the axle bearing for lateral and longitudinal loads and eliminates moment on the axle bearing.

28. (currently amended): A linear steering truck apparatus, for mounting upon a railroad car body, the linear steering truck apparatus ~~being of the kind~~ having at least two transversely extending axles, and each axle being pivotably mountable to the railroad car body, the linear steering truck apparatus having a longitudinally extending axis in the direction of travel of the truck when the truck is traveling in a straight line, the linear steering truck apparatus further having a transverse axis extending generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the transverse axis being positioned at a midpoint along the longitudinal axis, the linear steering truck apparatus comprising:

- a. a bolster member having two ends, the bolster being located along the transverse axis extending generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, generally located between and parallel to the transversely extending axles; and
- b. a plurality of side bearings, a side bearing being situated proximate to one end of the bolster, the side bearing having a plurality of rollers situated between the bolster and a car body plate, wherein the car body plate is placed on the side bearings thereby attaching the apparatus to the car body, the side bearings substantially supporting the vertical load of the car body.

29. (original): The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the side bearings are positioned to direct the entire load of the car body equally through the bolster.

30. (original): The device of claim 28 wherein the bolster and side bearings are constructed of high strength ferrous casting.

31. (original): The apparatus of claim 30 wherein the bolster and side bearings

of high strength ferrous casting are constructed using the lost foam process.

32. (original): The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the plurality of rollers are conical shaped.

33. (original): The apparatus of claim 28 wherein the plurality of rollers are radially aligned.

34. (new): The apparatus of claim 3 wherein the rollers each have interconnecting teeth which time the rollers between plates.

35. (new): The apparatus of claim 34 wherein the rollers are conical in shape.

36. (new): The apparatus of claim 3 wherein each side bearing includes three rollers.

37. (new): The apparatus of claim 34 wherein each side bearing includes three rollers.

38. (new): The apparatus of claim 35 wherein each side bearing includes three rollers.

39. (new): The apparatus of claim 34 wherein a bearing adapter movably attaches a pedestal to an axle bearing.

40. (new): The apparatus of claim 39 wherein the rollers are conical in shape.

41. (new): The apparatus of claim 40 wherein each side bearing includes three rollers.

42. (new): The apparatus of claim 39 wherein each side bearing includes three rollers.

43. (new): A linear steering truck apparatus, for mounting upon a railroad car body, the linear steering truck apparatus having at least two transversely extending axles,

and each axle being pivotably mountable to the railroad car body, the linear steering truck apparatus having a longitudinally extending axis in the direction of travel of the truck when the truck is traveling in a straight line, the linear steering truck apparatus further having a transverse axis extending generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the transverse axis being positioned at a midpoint along the longitudinal axis, the linear steering truck apparatus comprising:

- a. a bolster member having two ends, the bolster being located along the transverse axis extending generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, generally located between and parallel to the transversely extending axles; and
- b. a plurality of side bearings, a side bearing being situated proximate to one end of the bolster, the side bearing having a plurality of rollers situated between the bolster and a car body plate, wherein the car body plate is placed on the side bearings thereby attaching the apparatus to the car body, the side bearings substantially supporting the vertical load of the car body, wherein the rollers each have interconnecting teeth which time the rollers between plates.

44. (new): The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the rollers are conical in shape.

45. (new): The apparatus of claim 43 wherein each side bearing includes three rollers.

46. (new): The apparatus of claim 44 wherein each side bearing includes three rollers.

47. (new): The apparatus of claim 43 wherein a bearing adapter movably attaches a pedestal to an axle bearing.

48. (new): The apparatus of claim 47 wherein the rollers are conical in shape.

49. (new): The apparatus of claim 47 wherein each side bearing includes three rollers.

50. (new): The apparatus of claim 48 wherein each side bearing includes three rollers.

51. (original): The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the side bearings are positioned to direct the entire load of the car body equally through the bolster.

52. (new): The apparatus of claim 51 wherein the rollers are conical in shape.

53. (new): The apparatus of claim 51 wherein each side bearing includes three rollers.

54. (new): The apparatus of claim 52 wherein each side bearing includes three rollers.

55. (new): The apparatus of claim 51 wherein a bearing adapter movably attaches a pedestal to an axle bearing.

56. (new): The apparatus of claim 55 wherein the rollers are conical in shape.

57. (new): The apparatus of claim 55 wherein each side bearing includes three rollers.

58. (new): The apparatus of claim 56 wherein each side bearing includes three rollers.

59. (original): The apparatus of claim 43 wherein the plurality of rollers are radially aligned.

60. (new): The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the resilient member is contained substantially within the equalizing side frame suspension.

61. (new): The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the resilient member is positioned substantially horizontally.

62. (new): The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the resilient member is contained substantially within the equalizing side frame suspension.

63. (new): The apparatus of claim 15 wherein the resilient member is positioned substantially horizontally.

66. (new): The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the resilient member is contained substantially within the equalizing side frame suspension.

67. (new): The apparatus of claim 22 wherein the resilient member is positioned substantially horizontally.

68. (new): The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the resilient member is contained substantially within the equalizing side frame suspension.

69. (new): The apparatus of claim 26 wherein the resilient member is positioned substantially horizontally.

70. (new): The apparatus of claim 60 wherein the side bearings are positioned to direct the entire load of the car body equally through the bolster.

71. (new): The apparatus of claim 61 wherein the side bearings are positioned to direct the entire load of the car body equally through the bolster.

72. (new): A linear steering truck apparatus, for mounting upon a railroad car body, the linear steering truck apparatus having at least two transversely extending axles, and each axle being pivotably mountable to the railroad car body, the linear steering truck apparatus having a longitudinally extending axis in the direction of travel of the truck when the truck is traveling in a straight line, the linear steering truck apparatus further

having a transverse axis extending generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, the transverse axis being positioned at a midpoint along the longitudinal axis, the linear steering truck apparatus comprising:

- a. a bolster member having two ends, the bolster being located along the transverse axis extending generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis, generally located between and parallel to the transversely extending axles;
- b. a means for attaching the linear steering truck to the car body;
- c. a plurality of pedestals, a pedestal engaged to an axle bearing, the axle bearing being rotationally engaged to one end of a transversely extending axle, and at least one pedestal being movably attached to at least one other pedestal situated in the same plane along the longitudinal axis; and
- d. a pair of rack and pinion steering components, each steering component comprising a gear tray, a pinion, an idler, and a plurality of racks, the gear tray having a recess, the pinion rotationally engaging the gear tray recess and having a pinion recess, the idler engaging the pinion recess, one of said racks engaging the gear tray, one of said racks engaging the pinion, and one of said racks engaging the idler, a first pedestal rotationally attaching to the rack on the pinion, a second pedestal rotationally attaching to the rack on the gear tray and to the rack on the idler, each pinion being rotationally attached to a car body plate, wherein the pinions are disposed to create substantially opposite and equal rotate and translation with respect to each other